

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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CINCLANT NORVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1783

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR BF UK

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH UK HICOMER ON BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. UK HICOMER VISITED WITH AMB THIS MORNING TO BRIEF AMB ON NEGOTIATING GUIDANCE PROVIDED HICOMER FROM LONDON AND INFORM AMB OF INFORMAL DISCUSSION HICOMER HAD WITH BAIN, SECRETARY TO CABINET.

2. IN A RECENT DISCUSSION WITH HICOMER, BAIN ASKED HICOMER IF HMG WAS PLANNING TO PROVIDE VOSPER-TYPE BOATS AS THEY APPARENTLY HAD OFFERED SOMETIME IN THE PAST. BAIN STATED THE BAHAMIANS WERE INTERESTED IN 110-FOOT VOSPER-TYPE BOATS. WHEN QUERIED BY THE HICOMER WHY THEY WANTED BIGGER BOATS THAN HAD BEEN RECOMMENDED, BAIN REPLIED "TO ACT AS A DETERRENT." HICOMER THEN ASKED WHERE THE BAHAMIANS INTENDED TO GET THE TRAINED PEOPLE TO OPERATE THESE BOATS, ESPECIALLY, THE HICOMER WENT ON TO SAY, WHEN THE FOUR BOATS THE BAHAMIANS NOW HAVE SELDOM ARE SEEN AWAY FROM THEIR MOORINGS IN NASSAU. BAIN APPEARED TO FUMBLE AROUND FOR AN ANSWER AND STATED THEY HAD PLANNED TO DISPERSE THEM AROUND THE FAMILY ISLANDS ACCORDING TO A PLAN NOT YET DEVELOPED.

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3. NO MENTION OF THE TECHNICAL SURVEY REPORT WAS MADE TO THE HICOMER. THE HICOMER STATED HIS GUIDANCE CABLE FROM LONDON DID NOT MENTION THE STUDY.

4. WHEN QUERIED BY THE HICOMER WHAT BAIN THOUGHT THE DURATION OF THE TALKS MIGHT BE, HE STATED THEY COULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE YEAR. COMMENT: HICOMER'S DISCUSSION WITH BAIN REVEALED NOTHING NEW. HIS VIEWS ON THE DURATION OF TALKS CONFLICT WITH THE COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO BAIN IN A RECENT INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION CABLE. EMBASSY AT THIS POINT QUESTIONS WITH WHAT AUTHORITY BAIN SPEAKS, IF ANY. AMB OCT 24 MEETING WITH ADDERLEY, AND THE RESULTING REQUIREMENT TO REDRAFT THE AGREEMENTS, ETC., WAS TOTALLY INCONSISTENT WITH THE GENERAL IMPRESSION PUT FORTH BY BAIN IN EARLIER TRIPARTITE MEETING THAT HE ANTICIPATED LITTLE PROBLEM WITH THE DRAFTS TABLED AT THAT TIME. AT THIS POINT THE EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT BAIN MAY NOT BE "PLUGGED IN" WITH THOSE MAKING THE DECISIONS RELATIVE TO BASE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. HICOMER STATED LONDON HAD AUTHORIZED HIM, IF HE FELT IT NECESSARY, TO INCLUDE IN UK OPERATING RIGHTS AGREEMENT "MEMBERS OF THE GCOB AND SPECIFICALLY NOMINATED OFFICIALS MAY HAVE ACCESS TO THE JOINT RELAY STATION AFTER REASONABLE NOTIFICATION BEING GIVEN TO THE OIC OF THE JOINT RELAY STATION." COMMENT: THE HICOMER WAS NOT RECEPTIVE OF GRANTING THIS TO THE GCOB. BESIDES CONSIDERING THE MISSION OF THE JOINT RELAY STATIONS TO BE NONE OF THEIR BUSINESS, THE HICOMER FELT GRANTING THIS PRIVILEGE MIGHT ENCOURAGE THE GCOB TO DEMAND THE SAME FROM THE USG. AWARE OF THE MISSION OF OUR FACILITIES, THE HICOMER DIDN'T THINK WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE HIM OPEN THE GATES. AMB EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THIS POSITION.

6. HICOMER'S REACTION TO THE APPROACH TO SOFA NEGOTIATIONS SUGGESTED BY ADDERLEY TO THE AMB WAS NEGATIVE. HICOMER FELT THE NEGOTIATORS SHOULD HAMMER OUT THE ISSUES FIRST, THEN SUBMIT THE RESULTS TO THE LAWYERS FOR REVIEW. THE AMB POINTED OUT THE DIFFICULTY IN THIS APPROACH IN THAT THE NEGOTIATORS MIGHT END UP WITH SOMETHING THAT WOULD NOT MEET LEGAL REQUIREMENTS. THE AMB WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE THOUGHT THE OPTIMUM PROCEDURE WOULD BE ONE WHERE THE NEGOTIATORS WOULD HAVE LAW-CONFIDENTIAL

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YERS PRESENT DURING NEGOTIATIONS TO DISCUSS EACH ISSUE AS IT SURFACED. REALIZING THIS WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GCOB, THE AMB EXPRESSED THE USG'S POSITION THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING TO WAIT UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT PROF. O'CONNELL COULD ARRANGE TO COME TO NASSAU. AMB STATED THE USG WAS NOT INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING SOFA WITH THE GCOB CONSULTANT OUTSIDE OF NASSAU AND SEPARATE FROM THE NEGOTIATORS.

7. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION RELATIVE TO THE QUID. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO MENTION OF A DOLLAR VALUE, THE HICOMER AGREED THAT THE EQUIPMENT PART OF THE QUID SHOULD BE PACKAGE DEAL IN WHICH EQUIPMENT WOULD BE OFFERED OVER A CAREFULLY PREPARED TIME PHASED PROGRAM. COMMENT: HICOMER SEEMED MUCH MORE CONFIDENT THAN HE APPEARED AT THE MEETING HELD ON THIS SUBJECT DURING THE TIME THE MOD TEAM WAS IN TOWN. THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSION, HICOMER APPEARED READY TO PROTECT U.S. NEGOTIATING POSITIONS SHOULD IT BECOME NECESSARY.
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